

Valley^{ITCHEN} News

Issue 90 June 2021

For Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Martyr Worthy



Systematic Kinesiology

Natural healthcare to balance and enhance your energy and wellbeing



pollyhowardwellbeing.co.uk
07734 803309

STN·MILL
HEALTH & FITNESS
—ALRESFORD—

GYM | BARRE | YOGA | PILATES | CYCLING | MEDICAL

WE ARE OPEN



STUDIOS REOPENING MAY 17TH

CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

Book in for a free trial class from 17th-30th May

www.stationmill.co.uk

Now open



Brunch, BBQ, Boards and Bowls

WELCOME to the Valley News



As the rain beats down in the run up to what we hope is a drier summer, nothing can dampen our spirits, especially now that we can actually sit side by side to put this issue together and on completion have a goodbye hug!

Readers, we are sorry to say that this is our last issue. After nine years of editing and many more contributing to the Itchen Valley News, in various forms, we have decided that it's time to move on. We'd like to say that we're making way for the younger generation, however at this point there is still a gap in the Editorial team. Please do think about getting involved. This magazine is run solely by volunteers and is a fantastic source of news and information for our community.

We as Eds are so grateful to our very special group of friends who have consistently come up trumps with ideas, features, copy, reviews and photographs. Dionne, Sophie, Charlie, Esther, Sarah.....please don't stop your wonderful input and thank you to everyone who answered our requests for articles with good humour..... and even better grammar!

Thanks also to the Editorial team for all your support. We will miss the monthly meetings and our robust debates (we won't mention Cowdown!).

Enough of us and onto the June issue. It's great to have things to look forward to. Music, shopping, boules and gardens are all on the summer agenda. If you want to look 'hot to trot' whilst you're out and about, take a look at our Itchen Entrepreneur

(page 16) whose Dizzy Leggings are becoming the season's must have.

No issue of ours would be complete without a mention of wine and the lengths to which The Grange is going to ensure our glasses are full of fizz are truly impressive (page 31).

Thanks to the animal lovers, we have a menagerie of tails to touch the heart, including a tearful goodbye to a much loved four-legged friend.

We're also in bed with Tony (page 30) and his top gardening tips and our Parish Councillor, Patrick Appleby highlights the importance of the countryside code (page 39).

Next month's editor is Charlotte Appleby.

Farewell! Love Lucy & Fi

Itchen Valley News

Chief Editor Vernon Tottle

Editors Charlotte Appleby, Verity Coleman, Tony Gaster, Fiona McIntosh, Lucy Wolfe

Advertising Jenny Sloan

Distribution Lyn Jones IA&A 07899 922221
Gilly Greenwood E&MW 779540

Treasurer Henry Labram

For editorial enquiries, articles, letters or comments, please email:

itchenvalleynews@gmail.com.

For advertising enquiries, please email:

itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com

Postal address: Itchen Valley News, Hazeldene, Northington Road, Itchen Abbas, SO21 1BE

Please send all contributions for July 2021 by Tuesday 15 June. All material is published in good faith and the Valley News cannot be held responsible for any

information given or views expressed; neither can it be liable for any loss arising from the use of any information or advertisements contained herein. The Editorial Team reserves the right to refuse or amend articles or advertisements submitted for publication.

Printed by Greenhouse Graphics of Basingstoke.

Cover photo by Fiona Stubbs and other photos from various contributors.

What's On

Itchen Abbas Boules

Tuesday evenings.
The last time we played boules in Itchen Abbas was the last

dry Tuesday in Sept 2019!

Little did we realise at our end-of-season meal that it would take until May 2021 before we could resume! However, the 2021 Boules season has finally started.

*Boules ... pétanque ... you'd like to play
But where to go? I hear you say.*

Tuesday nights, we start at six.

We can teach you all sorts of tricks

To shoot and point, it's always fun

We do so hope you can come

Find our pistes at IAA Hall

Two terrains for one & all

You can't be too young, you can't be too old,

We'll try to teach you if you wish to be told,

If you're brilliant - that's great, if you're not - no matter!

We're a friendly bunch and like to natter!

Pop along and have a go,

All you need is a forward throw

Or come and see us for a chat

We'd love you to join us ...

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT!

For more info, please contact me on jenny@sloan-home.co.uk or call on 07815 770810

We look forward to seeing lots of new faces of any age on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer.

Jenny Sloan

Tichborne House Gardens

Saturday 19 June. See page 38.

Winchester Go LD Garden and Craft Fair

Wednesday 23 June 10am - 4pm at Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane, Headbourne Worthy, SO23 7LA. For more information, please see full page advert on page 15.

Bumper Bramdean Car Boot Sale

Sunday 8 August. Gates open 8am.

Formerly the Brockwood Park Bank Holiday Car Boot.

In aid of Home-Start Winchester.

To be held at Wood Lane Bramdean SO24 0JW

Directions from A272 and A31

Car Boots £10, Vans & Trailers £15

Admission by donation

Refreshments available

For more information call 01962

771971 or 07976 686979 or email

chrisie.barlow@home-startwinchester.org.uk

Chrissie Barlow

West Meon Music Festival

9 - 12 September

After a mini-event last year because of Covid-19 restrictions, the West Meon Music Festival will return to normality in September with four days of concerts and masterclasses. The festival's founders, the internationally renowned Primrose Piano Quartet, will also be joined by several of the high-profile musical guests who would have performed at the originally planned 2020 tenth anniversary festival.

Highlights of the festival, which runs from 9 to 12 September, will include a performance of Brahms' stunning *Horn Trio Op.40* with leading horn soloist Stephen Stirling; Mozart's joyous *Piano Quartet in E flat*; and Schubert's final



Photograph: Lester Barnes

chamber work, the ever-popular *String Quintet in C major*, when the Primrose strings will be joined by violinist Jonathan Stone, until recently a member of the acclaimed Doric Quartet and Kirsten Jenson, at present guest cellist in the Allegri Quartet. In addition there will be a recital by the exciting young guitarist Laura Snowden described as a “string sensation” by *BBC Music Magazine* and a performance by Roman Kosyakov, winner of the Hastings International Piano Concerto to include Mussorgsky’s “*Pictures at an Exhibition*”.

Also planned are masterclasses for young musicians, various pre-concert talks, a folk music concert at a local pub, and a late-night concert of works by Bartok and Schoenberg.

In all there will be eight concerts over the four days and full details of all concerts and tickets can be found on the festival website:

www.westmeonmusic.co.uk.

Susanne Stanzeleit

Valley Happenings

Easton WI - Our virtual visit to the Chelsea Flower Show.

May was our AGM held via Zoom and Kyrene welcomed members and visitors from New Alresford WI. Our speaker, Mandy Bradshaw showed us round Chelsea as a journalist and photographer. She is a member of the Garden Media Guild and was garden journalist of the year 2018.

The flower show has been held at Chelsea since 1912 and Mandy gave a fascinating account of Press Day with lots of photos and amusing anecdotes. She arrives very early wearing sturdy boots and her Dry-as-a-Bone waterproof with many pockets for her camera, notebook and press pass.

Dozens of photographers from around the world (some with ladders) jostle to get the best shots of both the gardens and the celebrities who launch them.



We saw fantastic show gardens with models dressed in themed costumes and amazing dresses. Press day is the best day to be able to view the gardens and walk onto them to see how they are constructed. We saw just how crowded the avenues around the Pavilion become when the show is open to the general public. The Chelsea pensioners are always around and happy to chat to the public and pose for photos.

Exhibitors are given three weeks to build and plant their show gardens, which have to be constructed precisely to the plans they submit. The logistics



to bring all the lorries onto site is a huge undertaking with 40-tonne lorries backing up waiting their turn to offload all the materials needed for each garden. The judges realise the importance of the constructor's job and are beginning to present awards to them as well as the designers.

After the show, many gardens are removed and re-planted in community schemes, and hospital grounds. Plants, trees and sculptures are auctioned off for charity or donated to charity gardens and communal spaces. The many bees and butterflies arriving during the five days must wonder where all the flowers have gone after the site has been cleared.

Mandy gave us a different impression of the Chelsea Flower Show, and it was very enjoyable and relaxing to follow her over Zoom.

She can be found at: thechattygardener.com where she writes and discusses everything gardening.

Sallie Peake

Local Valley Heroes



Tony Gaster has been given the Mayor's Community Award for his long and energetic service to this community. The citation only

allowed 100 words which made it hard to describe adequately all the different roles he has played in our community. He is in fact still active in many of these, having postponed his move away from Itchen Abbas. He is still one of the Valley News editors and a regular contributor, although he has handed over leading the churchyard maintenance gang. We all owe him much thanks for the work he has done in many different fields for the Church and the wider community and although we wish him every happiness, I for one cannot sincerely hope that his search for a suitable down-sized house in Winchester is successful too soon.

Charlotte Appleby

Jill Croft



Jill was announced as a recipient of this year's Mayor of Winchester Community Award at which, with characteristic modesty, she pronounced herself "astonished". The citation reads: *For outstanding, good humoured and tireless work within Easton and the wider community for over 25 years.* It goes on to list her many activities, including her involvement with the Easton Panto, The Village Hall Committee, the Easton

Fete, the Itchen Valley W.I., Easton church, Cameo and the raising of funds for local charities with her jams and chutneys. Jill's award has been widely welcomed by Easton residents who recognise that it could not have gone to a more worthy community champion who is a positive example to us all.

What a gal!

Steve Percy

Royal British Legion (RBL) Centenary Collection



Following the collection that took place at St John's, Itchen Abbas on Sat 15 May in support of the RBL and further donations received, I can confirm that £721 was collected for the Poppy Appeal. I wish to thank all those in the Itchen Valley who contributed to this magnificent sum.

Gavin Edgerley Harris

Local Poppy Appeal Organiser

Roy to the Rescue

A boy and his Alresford Crafts owl have been re-united after 35 years apart and it was Roy Gentry of Alresford's Museum who enabled the touching reunion.

"Oliver the Alresford Crafts owl was a much cherished companion that he tragically lost all those years ago", said Roy. "His Dad had been trying to find a replacement for years when he finally

found the Alresford Museum. As luck would have it, we had more than one Oliver," said Roy "and we were delighted to be able to send him to his home near Chichester to make his now 40 year old son's dream come true." Alresford Crafts, the maker of soft toys and beautiful dolls was created by John and Margaret Jones and for 25 years until 1992 they produced these collector's items. Famous around the world, an Alresford Crafts owl has even appeared in an episode of Doctor Who and ET and now Alresford's museum has a display of the much loved toys.



Roy Gentry with Oliver the Alresford Crafts owl

The Museum has a range of Alresford Crafts dolls and stuffed toys on display at the Old Fire Station in the town's Broad Street, along with fire memorabilia, including an 1893 horse-drawn steamer fire engine, photos, exhibits and finds from the local area.

Roy has just received the Mayor of Winchester's Community Award for his work in setting up the Museum.

"We are always looking for volunteers," said Roy "and artifacts that relate to the town and its life through the ages, so if you would like to help or have items of interest please get in touch with me at



AVINGTON PARK FARM COTTAGES



5* Self Catering

www.avingtonholidays.co.uk



AVINGTON PARK GOLF COURSE



Your Local 9 Holes

www.avingtongolf.co.uk

01962 77 99 55



PRINCE'S MEAD

Welcome to Prince's Mead

AN INDEPENDENT CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-11 YEARS, WINCHESTER



WINCHESTER WOOD FLOORS



BEAUTIFUL NEW WOOD FLOORS ~ EXPERT FLOOR SANDING AND RESTORATION
BESPOKE CABINETRY

w: winchesterwoodfloors.co.uk t: 01962 733016 e: info@winchesterwoodfloors.co.uk

Winchester Wood Floors Ltd, 3 Vernal Cottages, Spring Gardens, Alresford, SO24 9QB

roy.gentry@alresford.org or call me on 01962 773185.”

The Museum will next open to visitors on Monday 31 May and Trustees are always happy to arrange group visits.

Bake Sale for India



Thank you to everyone who supported the Bake sale to raise much needed funds for India and to help support families living in the slums. The sale raised £422.80 for the Aasraa Trust. In normal times this wonderful organisation helps children in the slums, specifically helping them get an education. But of course now it's had to adapt and is providing supplementary ration packs to the families who have been worst affected due to the pandemic. The money raised in the sale will help at least 35 families have dry rations of food for a week.

Polly Howard

The Itchen Valley Flower & Produce Festival in September

Readers may remember that a group of us – mainly Valley Gardeners - were all set to launch the revamped and re-named valley flower show last

September when Covid 19 put a stop to that, along with so many other events. However, we put a date of 11 September 2021 in the village hall diary and hoped for better luck second time around.

Earlier this year, I contacted the others in the group so we could start the Festival ball rolling again. For varying reasons, 5 out of the 8 in the group have chosen not to continue with this project. This leaves me, and my two remaining colleagues in an impossible position. We cannot deliver this event with just three of us so, I am really am sorry but I have no alternative but to cancel the Festival, which is really unfortunate.

Catherine Hahn

Zooming along at the Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting was possibly the shortest one ever - with the exception of the 2020 meeting that took no time at all. Maybe because it was being held online, maybe because all the reports had been circulated beforehand or maybe because only one member of the public bothered to attend, it took a little over half an hour to wrap up the proceedings.

Topics discussed included the Winchester Local Plan, the unhelpful attitude of the County over dangerous trees, Itchen Abbas bus shelter, the number 67 bus during the pandemic and possible constraints over alterations to listed landscapes.

The 2019 meeting's minutes, the city and county councillors' reports and this year's accounts were all accepted. It was noted with relief that the bookkeeping system had improved dramatically over previous years.

Patrick Appleby and his team were thanked for doing a job that was often one of fielding complaints but yet a vital part of community life.

Vernon Tottle

Comings and Goings

A very warm welcome to Laura and Cameron Young who have moved to The Park House, Burntwood,

Martyr Worthy with Teddy 7, Amadea 4 and Seraphina 2.

Lucinda Ffennell

In Easton, Sarah, James, Jasper (3yrs) Romy (1yr) Smith and two dogs Penny and Mabel have moved to Apple Tree Cottage from Nairobi Kenya. Their nanny Agnes Mutheu has joined for 6 months to help with the transition. Sarah Smith, daughter of Harry and Joanna Smith and granddaughter of Geoff Dee blames the pandemic for succumbing to Easton's charms sooner than anticipated. She has moved into No 3 The Terrace.

Judith Mezger

Farewell faithful friend

On Thursday 15 April we said goodbye to our beloved Bonnie (Bon). She was just 3 days short of her 16th birthday. Concern about noisy breathing had led to an urgent vet's appointment and not wishing to do invasive tests to confirm diagnosis, fluid was identified on her lungs possibly resulting from tumours. Our vet advised the kindest thing to do would be to put her to sleep straight away. It came as a shock because

despite her elderly years and becoming a little slow on walks, she was in really good shape. Our boys, Eliot and Julian were both away, in London and Scotland and we wished for them to have the opportunity to say goodbye. Because of Covid the veterinary practices are not making home visits. The thought of us having to say goodbye to our beautiful dog in the practice car park was not an option – we understand that many pet owners have not had a choice. We were fortunate that we knew of two friends who have recently had to part ways with their family dog and had found someone who would visit at home. We made enquiries and discovered the most loveliest couple Ben and Christine who are based in Havant. Their business, Final Rest, like many others, has evolved as a result of the pandemic. They wish to be 100% flexible to support you and your pet as best they can given Ben is a one man operation with Christine managing the admin.

We had a difficult couple of days where Bonnie appeared absolutely fine in herself, out for walks, eating well, requesting biscuits (and sausages) so we made and cancelled two appointments. Ben was wonderfully patient and guided us so helpfully with coming to terms with the inevitable decision. He spoke with our vet to give us his opinion of the diagnosis and the



understanding it was the right thing to do, despite Bonnie's seemingly happy behaviour. By now, our boys were home and we were together as a family and we were able to take her for a spring walk together in the valley.

Ben came to the house and was so unobtrusive. He explained everything so gently and calmly and our dear Bonnie fell asleep in her favourite chair surrounded by us all. We couldn't have wished for a more peaceful goodbye. We buried her in the garden.

Bonnie was a truly special dog. A bearded collie, often mistaken for a Dulux dog (Old English), which was always the start of many conversations with people we would meet when taking her out. She charmed everybody. Everyone who encountered her fell in love with her. Bearded Collies are characterful, fun and highly intelligent. They make wonderful family dogs. Their long coats require lots of grooming, so Bon had a regular appointment with Claire's Grooming in Harestock and became one of the family.

Bonnie was there on the playground when our boys were at primary school and has seen them leave university and start their working lives. We will miss her enormously.

The past year has brought our boys home, so for the large part we have been together as a family – time ordinarily we wouldn't have had together with Bonnie, so we are very grateful for that, especially given the many families that have been separated. Understanding that Bonnie was becoming quite senior in her years and knowing the huge hole she would leave, we welcomed a puppy into our house in September. Winnie (also a bearded collie) has had 6 months getting to know Bonnie and is growing

into a lovely dog; she had a good teacher. She is not and could never be a replacement for Bonnie but she has certainly brought comfort to our family and we are looking forward to developing a long, loving and happy relationship with her.

We told Bon often how much we loved her, probably every day. We would say to her, please never leave us but of course they do have to leave us. How lucky are we to have had this most wonderful dog share our lives and bring so much love, joy and happiness.

Helen Ellis-Brown

Ben & Christine www.final-rest.co.uk

Tatty Duck - The Sequel!

The wonderful true tale of the tiny orphaned duckling that was found in a garden in Itchen Abbas and taken in by Shelley Hughes and her family was told in a children's book that was published last year. Written in verse, Tatty Duck a true story, describes the fun and adventures the family had with their three boys and the dog Barney, bringing up the little duckling in their house and garden. She learnt to swim in a bucket and paddling pool and would snuggle up on Barney to sleep. When bigger she would go on dog walks across the meadows with them. She eventually





01962 435000 07989582117

HBPS are your local pest control experts based in kings worthy with a further office in Basingstoke we have you covered for all your pest control needs.

Fast professional service

Pest control services:

Rats

Cluster flies

Mice

Fleas

Wasps

Moths

Hornets

Squirrels

Moles

Birds



Call us on

01962 435000 or 07989582117

01256 578000 or 07939167612

10 Fraser Road, Kings Worthy, Winchester SO23 7PJ 4 Email: info@hampshirebirdandpestsolutions.co.uk



knew it was time to make her new life down on the River Itchen. She had a funny upturned beak and sometimes the boys could spot her swimming near their home at Itchen Stoke. With wonderful colourful pictures enjoyable for two to five year olds, the book also has photographs of the real duck and Barney the dog at the back.

With the success of this first book, and as a family friend of the Hughes, I have written a follow up story, also in verse. This has just been released and is available on Amazon, Waterstones or from Austin Macauley the publishers. It describes Tatty Duck's adventures on the river, now grown up and fending for herself. Also with colourful pictures, the book includes a pictorial map at the front showing where Tatty grew up and an educational wildlife page at the back.

Previously a nurse, I have enjoyed challenging myself and trying something quite different and getting out of my comfort zone. I would encourage anyone else to do the same.

Juliet Deacock

News from Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall

The IAA Village Hall has managed to come safely through the lockdown period, thanks to grants from HCC and careful management of our expenses. We continued to host the Montessori Nursery, which remained open for keyworkers' children through most of the last year, and other organised children's activities are already underway.

We will soon welcome back most of our other hirers in accordance with the roadmap stages. As you read this, we should have moved into Step 3, when the hall can re-open for a range of adult groups, including indoor exercise and meetings, but only where they can operate within the 'group of six' and social distancing rules.

Wedding receptions and wakes of up to thirty people will also be possible. In Step 4 (expected on 21 June), we hope to resume our full range of activities and bookings, though possibly with some limitations on maximum numbers at larger events.

Alex Bellisario left us recently after her successful period as Hall Manager, and we are delighted to welcome Izabela Young as her replacement. If you are interested in hiring the hall, please check our website (www.iaavillagehall.co.uk) for details, or contact Izabela at manager@iaavillagehall.co.uk.

We have also set the date of 19 July for this year's Annual General Meeting and all local residents are welcome to join us for a full report on the past year, and our plans for the future. Further details of the meeting will appear on our website (above) as the date approaches.

Ken Gordon

IAAVH Honorary Secretary

OCEAN ROOFING



OCEAN GUTTERING SERVICES AND ROOFING

- Gutter Maintenance and Repair
- Roofing Repair
- New Flat Roofing
- Lead Roofing

80 High Street, Winchester,
Hampshire, SO23 9AT

Tel. 01962 779690

www.ocean-roofing.co.uk

PETER G FISHER

GAS SAFE registered 219242

Plumbing, Heating and Gas Engineer

33 Victena Road, Fair Oak, SO50 7FY

Phone 02380 600834

Mobile 07860 401304

Credit and debit cards accepted

Contemporary Catholic Co-educational 3-13 Day & Boarding

"Exceptionally well-adjusted and kind children"

Tatler Schools Guide



FARLEIGH

Flexible school bus service, covering Winchester
Current pick-up from Headbourne Worthy (SO23 7LD)

For further information, please contact the Registrar, **Sarah O'Rorke**

E: admissions@farleighschool.com T: 01264 712838 to book or to arrange a tour

ALRESFORD PILATES

Small group classes or
private sessions

Close supervision and
individual support

**Further details -
www.alresfordpilates.co.uk**

Call/text Sally Hogg - 07771 522665

Email: sallyhogg@btinternet.com

Hampshire Rural Management Ltd

hantsrmltd@gmail.com 07730 099611

Estate Maintenance Land Management

Hedge cutting Woodland Maintenance

Gate Posts and Gates Paddock Topping

Hedge & Tree Planting Groundworks

Agricultural, Equestrian & Garden Fencing

www.hampshireruralmanagementltd.co.uk

Winchester

Enabling People with
Learning Disabilities

**GO
LD**



Garden & CRAFT FAIR



Wednesday 23rd June 2021

10am to 4pm

at Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane,
Headbourne Worthy, Winchester SO23 7LA

Entrance £5 PARKING AVAILABLE ON SITE

www.winchestergold.org.uk Tel 01962 600 281

Flower Demonstrations – Talks – 29 Stalls
Food marquee. And no dogs please!

Kindly sponsored by:



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS
WINCHESTER AND WICKHAM
01962 881 888



Tiddler Joke of the Month

What's the difference between a jeweller and a jailer?

One sells watches, and the other watches cells!

Jessica 8 years old



Itchen Valley Entrepreneur - Dizzy Legwear

The idea to set up a business came in the later stages of my long hospitalisation last year after the birth of Felix. After my illness, I was very comfortable wearing leggings but wondered why I had to pay so much for the decent brands. I wondered if there could be a way to source fun, comfortable, good quality leggings that don't cost a fortune. The name 'Dizzy' started as a bit of a joke. When I was out with a friend (who is also blonde like me) someone said, 'you look like a couple of dizzy blondes' and we all laughed. Actually, although it sounds a little bit sexist when it comes from a man, I think lots of women quite like



the word - it sums up a kind of carefree, happy state of mind. I like the idea of taking ownership of the word, so we went with Dizzy! Most people love the name, I think.

Where did you train as a yoga teacher?

I trained at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Delhi. I lived in Delhi for four years with my late husband (he worked at the International Red Cross), and as a young mum I found a real benefit from yoga. I had been doing yoga for years and so was thrilled to be living in India and to be able to go a step further with teacher training. It was a tough journey but I was really lucky to learn from one of the best and most patient teachers. I also found myself on Yoga TV quite regularly, which was a bit of laugh!

How did you test run the leggings?

I have a friend who understands the technology of textiles and textile mixes. I knew enough to be able to decide on fabrics which would be light as well as durable. Before we launched, I tried different samples and asked many friends to test my leggings for their durability and flexibility. I was very choosy about which products



CALOR
Autogas

FREE COLLECTION
COURTESY CARS

**NEW FARM MOTOR
SERVICES LTD**
New Farm Road, Alresford SO24 9QE
01962 732338

M.O.T. Testing Centre
Class 7 Vans from 3000 to 3500 kg
Class 4 Cars and vans up to 3000 kg
All makes cars & vans serviced and repaired
Horseboxes, lorries and campers up to 7500 kg
serviced and prepared for plating tests



L.P.G.A. Approved
Autogas conversions
www.amsautogas.com

**CERTIFICATED ENGINEERS
RECOVERY AVAILABLE**

Mulberry Tree Services

Problem Trees?

Fully Qualified Certified Tree
Surgeon with 25 years experience

**Fully Insured
Very Competitive Prices**

- Removal of Dangerous Trees
- Pruning • Shaping • Thinning
- Stump Removal • Hedge Cutting
- Fencing Specialist

Tel: 01962 88 68 66

Mob: 07974 761183

www.mulberrytreeservices.co.uk



PRESTIGE CARS of ALRESFORD

Private Hire Available For Airports,
Cruise Terminals and Train Stations
Longer Journeys undertaken as well

01962 865602

07752 570787

www.prestigecarsalresford.co.uk
kevin.mitchell202@btinternet.com

Garden Maintenance

Paul Moffatt

Mob: 07860 107175

Lawn Treatments
Mowing / Strimming
Moss / Weeds
Scarifying / Aerating
Chafer Bugs
Fertilising

Hedge Cutting
Light Chainsaw work
Garden Shed Maintenance
Patio Cleaning

**One-off or repeat work
Weekly, fortnightly, monthly
Fully insured**



D. Barker & Son
TRADITIONAL FAMILY JEWELLERS

Antique Jewellery a Speciality

**Contemporary Jewellery
Silver & Watches**

**Full Repair and Restoration Service
to Jewellery, Watches and Clocks
Hand & Heraldic Engraving
Valuations Undertaken**

40a West Street, Alresford
Tel: 01962 732200
www.dbarkerandson.co.uk



made it onto our website and which didn't!

How has it been launching a new business in lockdown?

I have loved launching the business. Running Dizzy from home has been just fine, although now our sales are regular we are starting to find there isn't enough space to store all the stock, so we have a container in Kings Worthy to manage the overflow. The good thing about having an online business in lockdown is that many of our customers have been very engaged with online shopping. I hope that trend continues!

How is it managing the business with a young family? I haven't got as far as asking my own children for help yet, but it has been a temptation - especially when it comes to packing orders, which on busy days can be more of an undertaking than you might imagine! I do get help from Anoushka (11) and Raffy (10) but mostly with

entertaining our baby (Felix). Felix is definitely not that helpful; he just sits in a chair bossing everyone about (and that is why his nickname is the Managing Director).

I love your patterns; where do you get the inspiration for them? Some of the main brands with high-waists and pockets provide me with inspiration but colour and pattern choice is a random path really. Some patterns were chosen by Dan. Although in his own words he is a 'chubby bloke in his 60s' he is in touch with his feminine side (don't for heaven's sake repeat this back to him) and he likes looking at designs and colours. In fact he designed our logo and our website too, which he finds fun...

Where is your favourite place to exercise/practise yoga locally?

I love Station Mill in Alresford, which has only just reopened. Otherwise Dan and Edward (one of his older sons) built a 'shala' in the garden which is really great for yoga but still a bit chilly



to use at the moment. You can see it up in our garden if you pass Ivy Cottage (we are in Avington, opposite the Old Rectory, next to the church). Some of our Instagram posts (@dizzy_legwear) feature some pictures of the shala in action.

How did you start selling/marketing of the leggings?

I love to do tie-ups with local businesses. We work with some local gyms and studios and they have been great at promoting us. All of our product photos were taken at Station Mill in Alresford. We have also relied heavily on Instagram and I signed up a friend who has been a brand ambassador for Dizzy. Instagram is good because it is so visual. Now we have a shop on both Instagram and Facebook we haven't really looked back and we have gone from zero followers in December to over 700 now. We expect to pass 1000 followers by June.

What's your best-selling item?

Our Kashi leggings are really popular in just about all of the colours. It was funny, we had one colour which we originally called 'olive' and it hardly sold at all. When we changed it to 'Devon' the sales picked up hugely. The Kashi Classic Blacks are obviously very popular, but people also love our patterns, and our Bauhaus leggings are best sellers!

Dizzy Legwear can be found online at <http://www.dizzylegwear.com> and there is a special offer for IVN readers - 15% off if you use this promotion code: DIZZYINTHEVALLEY15. You can also find Dizzy Legwear on Instagram @dizzy_legwear

Loulou Day-Robinson was talking to Fi McIntosh

Exploring our wonderful local food scene with Hampshire Farmers' Market

Food has always been, and continues to be one of my greatest passions in life. It must be in my blood. Both of my parents were amazing cooks, although very different. My father was classically trained, perfecting omelettes at the Café Royale in London in the fifties, whereas Mum was a creative intuitive cook, able to rustle up modest but delicious suppers with whatever was in the fridge.

A major part of my love of food is the sourcing and buying of it, and so I have always loved markets, and many a holiday has been centred around going to the abundant daily markets in Europe. (She says with a wistful sigh...) Hampshire Farmers' Markets have been going for twenty years and it has been interesting to see how our local Winchester market has changed over the years, starting off in the carpark in Middle Brook Street and then in the high street, with a bit of back and forth and now in the Broadway.

The second and last Sunday of the month are firmly diarised in my calendar and it is definitely a highlight of the weekend, getting up on a Sunday





morning and heading off to the market with whichever family member feels so inclined. Nothing gives me more pleasure than connecting to where our food comes from, chatting to some of the producers, finding out about new produce and products. It truly brings me so much joy.

Last weekend, I ventured to the pretty Petersfield market which is one of the only ones in a traditional square, as I had missed the previous week in Winchester. Many of the stalls are the same, as the producers travel around to the different towns in Hampshire, but there are a few different ones that caught my eye.

I tried some date coffee, aptly named Dafé, which is a new stall. I wouldn't call it a coffee substitute as naturally it is caffeine free, so great for anybody needing to avoid the stimulus of caffeine. It is made in a similar way to coffee, by roasting the dates and then grinding them. The result was a light and fresh drink, slightly sweet, and equally delicious with added milk or plain black.

Late spring/early summer is probably

my favourite season for the market, as it marks the wonderful arrival of our local asparagus, and at today's market I wasn't disappointed. There were several stalls selling beautiful asparagus, but I chose Durleighmarsh, as they are known for their asparagus and at this time of year it is their only crop. I chatted to Paul Abbott, owner of Durleighmarsh Farm and was fascinated to learn some top tips. Whilst I already know you should never cut the end of the asparagus off, but rather gently bend it so that it snaps naturally at the right place, thereby avoiding any wastage, what I didn't know is that if you find your asparagus a little gritty, then you need to scrape the little brown triangular scales that grow on the spears as they can sometimes contain a little dirt! Paul's suggestion is not to steam the asparagus, but to fry it gently in some butter and olive oil (that stops the butter from burning) for 4 or 5 minutes, perhaps with a little garlic.

But do be sure to load up now as the asparagus season will be over before we know it!

Polly Howard

From Our MP

First of all this month, I want to touch on the subject of illegal traveller racing over on the A33.

I deliberately put it in those terms because that's what it is. And, yes, I appreciate it's difficult for the police – and we should try to respect other cultures – but not when they break the law of the land.

As I promised at the time, I have been speaking (pretty frankly) to the police and the robust new Police Commissioner, Donna Jones, since the events of May's early Bank Holiday



weekend, and supporting their efforts to escalate the response for any future races. This is extremely pressing given adverts for a race at “Mitchell Diva” have been circulating on social media and I am pleased to say, as a result of what happened last month and the numbers involved, the weekend in June has been escalated to a Public Order Public Safety event. A silver commander officer has been identified who will write up a tactical and strategic plan.

And I will be leading the calls from constituents – coordinating your elected representatives at all levels – to meet these plans with a show of strength that makes it very clear the A33 is not a race track and we do not want this here. Clearly it’s a fast-moving situation but I will endeavour to post updates via the Parish Council and on my Facebook page.

Secondly, it was a welcome return at the end of May for my ASKtheNHS series of public meetings. This one heard from Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust – and local commissioners – about future services at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and plans for a new build hospital near (possibly) Junction 7 of the M3. You can see find all the details at www.stevebrine.com/

prioritynhs

On a different subject altogether, I recently joined officers from the British Transport Police at Winchester station as they carried out an important “county lines” operation. I was taken through the work of the team in combatting the practice that brings drugs into our area from big cities including London. After ten years in public life, I am not easily shocked by things but it never ceases to amaze me what I hear. Drug running into places like Winchester is a menace that prays on the most vulnerable and the BTP team are doing superb work to try and disrupt it. It is so important that the police are tough and out showing a strong, but supportive, face.

Finally, many congratulations to Cllr Fiona Isaacs for her election to Winchester City Council representing the Alresford & Itchen Valley Ward. I look forward to working with her on, amongst other things, speeding through our villages and rural broadband connectivity, which I know she cares a great deal about.

Congratulations also to Cllr Porter for her re-election as County Councillor. I will, as always, work with them both for the benefit of my constituents in the Valley.

Much more, and daily updates from me, please ‘follow’ www.fb.com/SteveBrineMP

Steve Brine MP

From the Rectory

A couple of weekends ago, Simon Ffennell kindly invited our neighbour Nick Fuggle, my wife Nicky and me for a lesson in ringing the bells at St Swithun’s Church in Martyr Worthy.

The wind outside was blowing hard at the time and so, happily, I don't think villagers would have been too disturbed by the suppressed sound of our novice attempts (and in particular by my difficulties with timing and the resultant clash of the bell I was ringing with one or both of the other two). While inside that remarkable building once again, my eye was drawn to the framed commemoration of the Rectors who have served at St Swithun's over the last nearly 750 years since the first mentioned, Hugh Tripacy, who was here in 1279. Since then, as set out in this commemoration, there have been a further 30 Rectors serving Martyr Worth exclusively, until 1955, four Rectors of Martyr Worthy with Easton between 1955 and 1991, two Rectors of the unified Itchen Valley Benefice from 1991 to 2005, and three of the newly merged Parish of the Itchen Valley from 2005 to date, for a total of 40.

Interestingly (if my count is accurate!), since 1279 (so during Henry II's reign) there have also been 40 English and British monarchs to date (counting only those about whom there is no dispute, i.e., excluding claimants like Lady Jane Grey). In terms of length of Rectorships vs reigns, only one St Swithun's incumbent comes close to Elizabeth II's 69 years on the throne: Henry Derneforde is stated to have served as Rector from 1384 to 1447, or 63 years.

On further reflection, returning to that extraordinary date of 1279, I thought of all the history to which St Swithun's and its succession of Rectors have been witness locally as well as nationally over the intervening centuries: civil and world wars, pandemics and plagues, fruitful harvests as well as failed ones, political and industrial revolutions,

changes in climate and landscape (recalling that Britain endured a 'Little Ice Age' between the mid-17th and mid-19th centuries), advancements in medicine alongside no doubt agonising losses of life too early, and much more. Of course, such witness is not exclusive to St Swithun's and its incumbents. St Mary's in Easton is thought to have an even longer heritage and St John's in Itchen Abbas is believed to have been a site of worship since at least Norman times (all three are mentioned in the Domesday Book, according to the eminent local historian Robin Greenwood). The distinctively Georgian St Mary's in Avington is a relative newcomer on the scene, having been built between 1768 and 1771, although it was a site of worship via earlier structures for some time before these dates, again as researched by Robin.

Set against such varied history over ten centuries in St Swithun's and its sister churches' cases, the continuity of Christian worship in these places through thick and thin is both striking and, in my view, inspiring. There can be few places in the world with such an uninterrupted record of God's Word being preached and a community of believers being gathered regularly, through every season, cycle and even era.

Clearly there have been real challenges in maintaining cohesion as a Christian community amidst the difficult and draining realities of the Covid-19 pandemic. At times, leading services via Zoom over the last year has been exhausting for our Church leaders and for the dedicated volunteers making their transmission possible. Many parishioners also understandably yearn for a return to fully fledged services in

Itchen Valley Churches

6th June - 10am Family Worship on Zoom

13th June - 10am Parish Communion
live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

13th June - 11am **NEW** Family Service
live at St Mary's, Avington

20th June - 10am Valley Worship on Zoom

27th June - 10am Parish Communion
live at St Mary's, Easton and on Zoom

27th June - 6pm Evensong
live at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

**If you would like to attend any of our services you must
book online at admin@itchenvalleychurches.org**

Private Prayer

Church opening times will be open between 10am and 2pm as follows:

St Mary's, Easton - Wednesdays

St John's, Itchen Abbas - every day

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy - every day

St Mary's, Avington - Every day by arrangement
please contact Dan at Ivy Cottage or on 07500 860949

**We may not all be able to gather as we normally do,
but we're still here if you need prayerful or practical
support.**

Rector - Currently Vacant

LLM - Mr Gerry Stacey
gerry.Stacey@biblesociety.org.uk
07554 438973

Parish Administrator - Beccy Clark
admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
01962 779845

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

our churches in person. Amidst such potential sources of discouragement, perhaps we can celebrate that, in this troubled season, in new and innovative ways we have joined multiple prior generations living here since late Anglo-Saxon times in ensuring that Christian worship in this valley has not ceased, whatever the pressures of the day may be.

At Theo Mezger wrote in this column last month, our Parish is now in a period of vacancy between Rectors and a careful process is underway to appoint a successor to Alex Pease. We can all pray for the right candidate to be identified to be St Swithun's 41st Rector (who will also serve the whole Valley), one who can build on this extraordinary continuity of faithful witness over the coming years.

John Barber

Bird of the Month



Most bird enthusiasts would expect to find a Raven on the exposed craggy tops of hills and mountains, and to hear its rasping croak.

Recently, enjoying a crab sandwich at the Harbour View

cafe in Bembridge, Isle of Wight, this magnificent healthy bird landed lightly on the next table, hoping no doubt for a share. Disappointed, it flew back into the nearby wood.

At a distance, it could be mistaken for one of its "cousins", a Rook or a Crow, but up close, at around 60 cms long, a Raven is a daunting size, bigger than a buzzard and twice the size of a

Jackdaw.

Reportedly, Ravens are intelligent creatures, as also are chimpanzees or dolphins, and capable, if trained, of imitating the human voice.

Elaine Labram

An Apology



As I write this, a pair of guileless, liquid brown eyes are staring up at me. Do I detect an accusatory element in

that otherwise innocent stare? If I do, it is my guilty conscience that is preying on me, nothing else.

The owner of the eyes is a sweet-natured Labrador bitch who has been with us for some nine or so years since she arrived as a rescue, having failed in her former life as a gundog. We never established what her failures amounted to; she is biddable, obedient and one would have to say, no trouble at all. In the house she is as quiet as a mouse, one often forgets she is there. Take her for walk and she becomes a different dog. She is Diana, the huntress incarnate. Nose down, tail up, she is off following scents in all directions. She will return with the leg of a deer, a surprised rabbit or some other prize. It may be this desire to go off as a scent hound that caused her to fail in what otherwise would have been considered her natural calling.

She has, of course, the power to win our hearts absolutely and to bend us hopelessly to her will. No other dog has ever been allowed upstairs. Very early in her time with us, she discovered the joy of lying on beds. She would slip away unnoticed and be discovered, often hours later, comfortably ensconced on the bed of her choice somewhere in the house.

The Countryside Code



Your guide to enjoying waterways, coast & countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit

- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo: bag it and bin it, any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit and have fun!

Follow advice and local signs

Footpath



Restricted Byway



Bridleway



Byway open to all traffic



Permissive Path

Follow advice on local signs as landowners voluntarily provide access to these paths and choose who can use them. Some open access areas are also made available in the same way.



National Trail

National Trails are created for walking, with horse-riding and cycling possible on some trails or trail sections.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk



Open Access

You can walk and explore away from paths.
www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

For further information visit www.gov.uk/countryside-code

BLB Private Car Hire

Airport, Docks &
long distance transfers
in safety & luxury



Email

blbcarhire@gmail.com

07775 893146

Web: blbprivatecarhire.co.uk

PETER BRAY

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE ENGINEER

Repairs to Washing Machines, Dryers,
Electric Cookers, and Waste Disposal
Units

Service Agents for In-Sink-Erator,
Tweeny, Maxmatic, Waste King and
Waste Maid.

Tel 01962 714224

Mob 07885 490786

11 Hill Rise, Twyford,
Winchester SO21 1QH

IVC

Cars Chosen With Care

Excellent prices on both new and
second hand cars.

For further details telephone
01962 733097 or visit us at www.ivcuk.com

Belmont House
The Dean
Alresford
Hampshire SO24 9BQ
Telephone: 01962 733097
www.ivcuk.com

Selling new and used cars in Hampshire and beyond since 1987

Computer Problems?



- PC, Mac, iPads, Phones
- Systems & Software Setups
- Virus cleaning & Security
- Tune ups & Health Checks
- Broadband, WiFi & Network
- Upgrades & Hardware
- Data Recovery
- Cracked screens replaced

Independent and Impartial Advice
Home Visits (some evenings available)

10% labour discount over 1/2 Hour with
Parish Magazine



Laptops, Macs, Phones,
Data recovery

PC's, Laptops, Home
setups, Viruses

Colin: 01962 713890

Gerry: 01962 712674

Mob: 07727 481220

Mob: 07900 845814

Qualified engineer

Microsoft Certified

As you approached her to reprimand her and to tell her to remove herself, she would look up at you with what soon became known as her “Lady Di” look. She would gaze up at you just as Diana, Princess of Wales would and simply melt your heart. She is ruthless in deploying this weapon and it has worked every time; she has the run of the house and whichever bed she finds the most enticing.

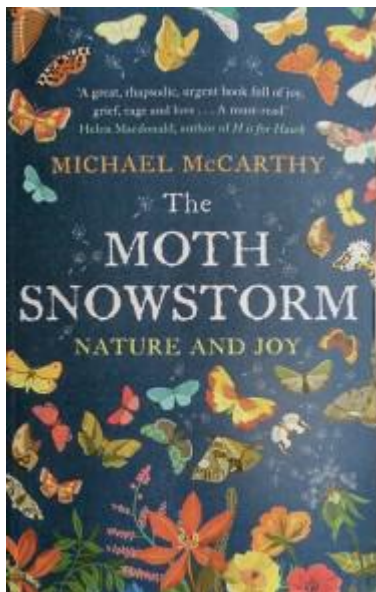
And why the guilty conscience? Some years ago, I wrote a series of pieces in memory of the Big Fella, the engaging but strong willed dog who had been at the centre of our lives for so long. In order to ensure that his character and adventures remained centre stage, I air brushed out the gentle, loveable dog whom I am now describing. Perhaps it was necessary, but the reality was that for the last four or five years of the Big Fella’s life, she was there and part of all that took place. She was not there for all the stories and some made more sense without her, but I still did her a disservice, for which I now apologise. She is not getting any younger and I feel that I should make this public apology to her whilst I still can.

I look up from writing this and notice that she has slipped out of the room. Upstairs, no doubt, she has found somewhere comfortable to spend the rest of the day. More than ever, I do not have the heart to disturb her, she is free to find whatever comfortable spot in the house she wants. I have long since capitulated; such is the power of the dog!

Boss

Book Review - The Moth Snowstorm


Michael McCarthy is an award winning environmentalist and writer who, for



many years, was the Environment Editor of *The Independent* newspaper and who wrote the acclaimed *Say Goodbye to the Cuckoo* in 2009. In a beautifully written work, *The Moth Snowstorm*, he writes lyrically of a lifetime’s experience of observing nature and the joy and wonder it has brought to him. He movingly weaves into the narrative his troubled upbringing on the Wirral and the solace he found as a schoolboy in discovering butterflies and in bird watching on the Dee Estuary.

Perhaps the most striking chapter is on “the great thinning,” describing how in the UK we have annihilated half of our biodiversity in recent decades. He cites the halving of the bird population since the Beatles broke up, the absence of moths in car headlights and the eradication of wild flowers. The explanation seems to be the intensification of farming with the scrubbing up of hedgerows, the farming of marginal land and the devastating use

Ewa's Alterations



Ewa Cannon
Ewa Cannon Tailoress
7 Upper Brook St
Winchester
hampshire10@sky.com
07469725102

SHAUN BARNEY
Professional
Painter & Decorator
Local Tradesman with
20 years experience
Quality Work
Competitive Rates
Fully Insured
01962 864033
07928 027618

A H SERVICES

**Central Heating
Plumbing & property
maintenance.**



Gas Safe registered Engineers
NVQ qualified & certificated plumbers
All aspects of plumbing & heating
Installations/Service/Repairs
Electrical/Property maintenance.
Emergency call outs. Landlord
management.

Bathroom & kitchen refurbishment/
Power flushing, hot water cylinders, gas
fires, cookers, drains, water softeners,
tilling, lead work.

Tel: 07533 776 406 or 07847 144 092



Sole Butchers of Alresford

01962 735221

Butchers of Distinction
Home Made Pies. Ready Meals
A Variety of Seasonal Game
Award Winning Sausages and Burgers

YOU COULD ADVERTISE HERE!

Contact Jenny at [itchenvalleyadvertising @gmail.com](mailto:itchenvalleyadvertising@gmail.com)

Save the Dates

Itchen Valley Flower and Produce Festival postponed to 2022

11 September 2021 7.00 Party in Easton Village Hall

23 November 2021, 9 January and 25 February 2022: Martyr
Worthy Lecture Series in IA&A Village Hall in aid of Itchen Valley
Churches

16-19 June 2022 Easton Flower Festival

of pesticides and herbicides. Why is there not more outrage about this? Let us hope that initiatives such as those adopted by Robert and Jo Sutcliffe, Nicky Barber and others in recent News' articles start to turn the tide towards more ecologically friendly farming practices

McCarthy outlines two approaches to the defence of nature in recent decades, namely the notion of sustainable development and the utilitarian pricing of ecosystems. He argues that since both defences have been found wanting, what is needed now is a new defence that emphasises what nature means to our spirits and our love of it. As he puts it: *We should offer up its joy.* He quotes from an Iris Murdoch novel; *People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us.* (Certainly a great encouragement for James Grieg's new enterprise!)

He also admits to a particular love of chalk streams and writes of the joy he felt at coming across the Itchen: *Once, on a May morning a few years ago, I came out on to the banks of the Upper Itchen, at Ovington in Hampshire, and the river with its flowers and willows and the serenity of its flow and its dimpling trout in its matchless, limpid water, all gilded by the sunshine, seemed to possess a loveliness which was not part of this world at all. Yet it was part of it; and there, once again, was the joy.*

This is a beautiful book that challenges us to think about our relationship to the natural world in a new way.

Steve Percy

Pretty Porkers

Pinch, Inch, Squiggle and Squirm - the four little piggies residing by Grey's Cottage.



Now 12 weeks old, the four boys are Oxford Sandy Black (ginger pigs with black spots) crossed with Berkshires (black pigs with pink socks) of Pigling Bland fame.

Pigs are often much maligned. They are very clean animals and given the opportunity they would take a shower. We all associate pigs being covered in mud and dirt; this is their sun screen. Pigs do eat almost anything with the exception of onions and citrus fruit. The notorious gangsters of the 1960s, the Kray Brothers, in the East End of London would feed their victims to pigs in the knowledge all evidence would be devoured. A sniff of food and a pig will be at your side. Too many apples and pig is sozzled. A pig will not eye you up for lunch but, like all animals, they are curious and will come to investigate if there is a waft of food around. This is why, when visiting pigs, it is unwise to be eating or drinking as they will demand a share and pig is a very strong beast. A delicacy for a pig is the roots of nettles and brambles and they always used to be kept not only to be eaten but most importantly to clear woodland. Pigs are also extreme time keepers and ours expect their breakfast at 7am and tea at 4pm.

In the past we have taken our pigs to the Alresford Show, not to win prizes, but for people to see them as very

sociable animals who love a tickle. Pigs are very susceptible to human diseases and you will not find a commercial herd of pigs any where near a footpath. Our pigs are in very regular human contact which helps build up a degree of natural resistance to infections. The pigs are here to earn their keep and will stay until roughly 28 weeks. You can eat every part of the pig except its squeak. When a pig's tail is curly it is alert; when it is straight the pig is relaxed. As the pigs get bigger we will increase their stumping ground. Whilst they are here, you are welcome to lean over the electric fence and tickle a nose or two although, not being stupid, they are well aware the electric fence will give a nasty zap.

Fiona Stubbs

Weed cutting on the Itchen

Simon Ffennell and Christof Ringrose Voase cutting weed on the River Itchen.



The Practical Gardener

It's confession time. I must stop buying my favourite potting compost "Jacks Magic" because it contains peat. We must all stop using peat in our gardens. I've noticed the professionals always use the botanical names for plants. Of course, that is correct "felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas".



The biggest issue in the month of May was a very sharp frost on the sixth. It hit all my potatoes and other sensitive plants. We have to wait and see what recovers. So our cold season is now extending to 7 months of the year and gardeners need to be aware of that. Recent cold nights have also had an impact on some growth but not all. It's interesting because my potatoes have been under fleece from March until early May, grown like this here for 15 years with no issues. The climate is changing.

The month of June is possibly the latest time to sow anything that is to flower or produce a crop within the year. I continue to find it curious which seeds germinate well and those which do nothing at all. I can't offer any explanation but my advice is to continue with what you know works in your garden. For example, "Kelvedon

Wonder", an early pea, is doing really well and I will have a crop to eat this month, yet a later sowing of a variety called "Rondo" is poor. Both were new seeds, sown in an identical way. My grandchildren are fascinated by peas: they think they come in a plastic bag from the freezer!

Some of us expect our gardens to work hard for us whether it's good to look at or good to eat. This takes goodness from the soil and we must make that up. There are in my experience two sources: organic and inorganic. Organic material comes from compost, leaf mould and the like. Inorganic is the famous NPK and here there is a need to add some back. I have in recent years become a devotee of liquid seaweed. It seems to me a natural product, contains the essentials and is easy and safe to use. So I have given up Baby bio for house plants and tomato fertiliser in favour of this. My house plants are certainly much better for it. Also if you shop around, it can be purchased quite cheaply.

I do buy some plants online. The big issue here is the packaging. I have found Woolmans and Dobies to be really good. Some I have used in the past are just dreadful. So even if the original plant was good, if the packaging is poor then the result will be unsatisfactory. Companies that respond well if you have a complaint are also to be praised. My advice is to be careful. One of my deliveries is almost a month late, clearly due to the cold weather.

As I write, it's mid-May. I am still harvesting carrots and leeks from last year. My first lettuces are producing a crop and I sow new every week. The asparagus is in full swing, such an easy



and delicious crop. There is colour in every part of the garden, trees, shrubs and perennials. I have around 3,000 daffodils (narcissus) in many parts of the garden. All the experts say the leaves must be allowed to die back. But these are thugs. They droop everywhere and on all surrounding plants. So I therefore dig some out and put into pots in the shade to die back. But this month I will get out the scissors as I am no expert!

Happy Gardening!

Tony Gaster

Frost at The Grange

Spring is a nerve wracking time. We have to become weather seers and work out what temperature it's going to be tonight at 3am, tomorrow night at midnight or next Thursday at dawn... yes, it's frost season in Burge's Field vineyard!

Throughout Winter the buds on the vines have been safely tucked away in a hard shell like this...



...but come the longer, warmer days of Spring and the rising of the sap, the buds begin to swell and push out from

the cane, getting ready to burst into the leaves, shoots and fruits that will produce this year's harvest. When still crusty and dormant the buds can withstand temperatures below -10°C but, once they begin to move, they get more and more vulnerable, so when they look like this...



...rosy, pink and full of promise, temperatures of -3°C can kill up to 50% of them and, when they push out a couple of leaves, anything below -1.7°C will do the same. In 2020, during the second week of May, despite working hard to counteract the cold, we

suffered a more than 60% reduction in yield over the previous year.

Despite the record number of frosty days this year (we've had at least 20 since mid-March), which has helped to hold everything back, the Chardonnay (always the first to move and normally the last to ripen), was at the fully swollen stage by the end of April and our nights were anxiously spent checking the temperature on the weather station in the vineyard. When it reaches -0.5°C we get on the phone and call out the Frost Warriors, a hardy band of volunteers who troop up and down the vines lighting the large candles (*bougies* in French) and huge bales of linseed straw whose heat and smoke keep the vines that little bit safer...

The Frost Warriors rewards are threefold - obviously a place in the wine-lovers' heaven is guaranteed, they

Curcumin & Turmeric

Acclaimed for wellbeing and easing joint aches.

A powerful antioxidant for men and women, combined with Ginger and Black Pepper for significantly improved absorption.

SPECIAL OFFER!
25% OFF YOUR ORDER

use offer code:

VALLEY25

at drvegan.com



DR. VEGAN®

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

also get a bottle of some of the finest sparkling made in the UK and, perhaps the best of all, the opportunity to take photos like this (with thanks to Vicky Low and Lucy Baring)...

It's still a bit too soon to tell for sure how effective the four burns we had to do this year have been, but our fingers are crossed that the damage has been kept to the minimum.



If you would like to come and explore the vineyard, we have a number of events over the coming months where Zam Baring will lead you in a tour of the vineyard and then give you a taste of the award-winning Wines the vineyard produces accompanied by some of Becka Cooper's delicious canapés (£35 per person) or one of her amazing picnics (£55 per person)

A tour, tasting and canapés:

Tuesday 8 June 6.30pm – 8pm - ONLY 14 places left

Saturday 7 August 6.30pm – 8pm

A tour, tasting and picnic

Monday 7 June at 6.30pm – 8pm – ONLY 12 places left

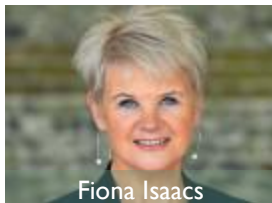
Places are limited to 25 an event and need to be booked in advance, to book contact: 01962458069

Claire@thegrangehampshire.co.uk or call 01962 458069

Claire Hunt

From our Councillors

I am honoured to have been elected Winchester City Councillor for Alresford and Itchen Valley; I wanted to say hello and provide you with some



Fiona Isaacs

contact information. On an ongoing basis I aim to get some information to you about

some of the activities that, as Councillor for your ward, I have been undertaking and also reaching out to those that do not know me to ensure that, if needed, they can contact me. Since my last street surgery in Itchen Valley, I have been following up on some of the issues raised. I am delighted to inform you that the Community Police Officers are more than happy to do a surgery in Itchen Valley and I will update you with an agreed date. A number of residents asked for this, so hopefully it will be well attended, even if just to say hello to them. Speeding is always an issue and I am liaising with relevant organisations to aid further discussions on this and site visits. I will continue to talk to and support all our wonderful local organisations across our ward and I am already in discussions with some over better broadband coverage. I aim to attend as many of the parish council meetings as possible over the next few months to aid communications and further understanding of your local issues. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy seeing more people as we slowly start to socialise.

Councillor Fiona Isaacs, Winchester City Council

fisaacs@winchester.go.uk



THE ART OF FIRE

Stove Specialists for over 40 years

Largest display of quality Woodburning Stoves that comes to the area, along with everything you could ever need for your stove or fireplace.

Stove Stalk of the Year • Competition wins • Gas stoves • Free trials • Electric fire logs • Gas logs • Improved log burning stoves • Fireplaces • Stove glass • Stove caps • Stove pipes • Log burners • Cast iron furniture • Fire log holders • Fire tools • Stove parts • Chimney sweeps • Maintenance services • Log • Fire Alarms • Free advice and no-obligation quotes.



**Kingsworthy
foundry**

London Road, King'sworthy, Winchester, Hampshire SO3 7JG
Tel: (01962) 86276, Email: info@kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk
www.kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk

NOT JUST STOVES!



**Kingsworthy
foundry**

**Kingsworthy
Cast Furniture**



London Road, King'sworthy, Winchester, SO3 7JG
Tel: (01962) 86276, Email: info@kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk
www.kingsworthyfoundry.co.uk

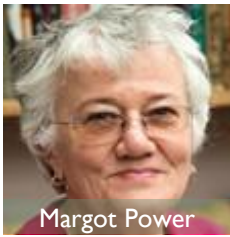
RICHARD EST STEEL 1860 & PARTNERS



The Steel family
have proudly served
the communities of
Winchester, Alresford
and the Itchen Valley
since 1860.



THE FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
richardsteelandpartners.co.uk | 01962 862333 | 24 hours



Margot Power

One of the reasons for the Liberal Democrat team to go out canvassing is to learn directly about the concerns of residents

throughout the ward. As a team we managed to knock on almost all the households in the ward, although of course not everyone is in. Talking to householders on their doorsteps does give us a direct line to learn at first-hand what people's worries are.

As ward councillors, we endeavour to cover all the local parish meetings usually individually, but sometimes together. At these meetings we can pick up on issues that come up in the parish councils on a range of matters The concerns that came up time and time again were:

Traffic problems: Speeding is the main problem, both in towns and villages and also along rural roads. The speed limit on single carriageway rural roads is 60mph although on a great many roads that speed would be highly dangerous. It is estimated that 40% of all road deaths occur on this type of road, which are not as heavily trafficked as urban roads and motorways. Apart from speed, people also complained about the lack of consideration shown by many to other road users. Horse riders complained of inconsiderate cyclists and car drivers; pedestrians complained of manic cyclists. After many years of seeking resolution from Hampshire County Council, we are proposing that our parishes act together.

Potholes: It is noticeable that in France and Germany, the rural roads are maintained to a higher standard than

ours. Is it wise to let our roads and other infrastructure quietly decay? Most householders are very aware that deferring maintenance year after year is not

sound economics. Leave a window unpainted too long and you end up replacing the whole thing.

Poor quality broadband: This is not limited to villages, there are some areas in Alresford where for some reason, such as distance from fibre optic connections, the rates are very slow.

Recycling centres: There were many complaints about these. The booking system is working better than at the start. Many people felt that restricting access to car drivers was a clear injustice and defied logic. The claim that pedestrians were at risk is nonsense, as every visitor has to walk around the site to access the skips. Since all are paying council tax, all should have access to the communal facilities; imagine if it was decreed that only car drivers could use public parks! These problems are not within the remit of Winchester City Council, however we will continue to seek solutions. We also found a number of Europeans, often resident for a considerable time, who were unaware that they were entitled to vote in local elections. We shall push for more advertising to make all residents in the country aware of their democratic rights and to set out the simple steps needed to add themselves to the electoral register.

Margot Power 01962 734167

Russell Gordon-Smith 01962 733219



Russell Gordon-Smith

Worthy Heating & Plumbing Services Ltd

- Free Boiler Estimates
- Power Flushing
- Landlord Gas Safety Checks
- Gas / Oil / LPG
- Boiler Servicing / Installations / Repairs
- Hot Water Cylinders
- Central Heating Systems
- Plumbing work undertaken
- Forth Generation Family Business

Tel: 01962 776321

enquiries@worthyheatingservices.co.uk



Itchen Valley Montessori



Itchen Abbas

9.00 am - 2.45 pm
Monday

9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Tuesday to Friday

The Montessori Method in a
prepared classroom

Activities include Art & Craft,
Music & Movement, Cooking,
French and Drama

Call 01730 829377

carolinembutcher@btinternet.com

nosh catering

Sensibly priced, bespoke catering using local produce.

For all enquiries contact Jude Ower:

Mobile: 07729 473795

Home: 01420 568179

www.noshcafebar.com

noshcafebar@gmail.com

nosh café | bar

Lymington Bottom Road

Next to Reads Butchers

Open 8-5 Mon/Sat

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE

ANDREW SMITH & SON

1793

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

Hampshire's Leading International Fine Art & Antiques Auctioneers

- monthly antiques & jewellery sales
 - six weekly fine art, antiques & collectables auctions
 - achieving World record prices
 - global exposure via 'live' internet bidding
 - regular contributors to BBC's 'Flag It!' and 'The Antiques Road Trip'
 - Contact us for details of our:
 - complete property & contents valuation services for
Sale • Insurance • Probate • Family divisions
 - free valuation advice for auction sale
 - complete house clearance
- www.andrewsmithandson.com



THE AUCTION ROOMS, MANOR FARM, ITCHEN STONE,
WINCHESTER SO24 8QT

Tel: 01962 73 5935 email: art@andrewsmithandson.com

Jackie's County Corner

I'm back and very grateful to all of you who took them time to vote by post or in person at the elections on 6 May. I was elected to be your County Councillor for the Itchen Valley Division.



Although we could not meet you earlier, we were allowed to meet you at your door after 8 March and I had hundreds of conversations - both happy and sad.

I saw a distinct difference in those conversations in comparison to those in previous years.

- A greatly increased interest in our green environment
- A greater awareness of recycling, and how we can reduce our own Carbon footprint
- A far greater number of electric cars plugged into homes
- The health and wellbeing of you, and of those around us
- And of course- getting out more!

Electric cars have burgeoned in the last few years. 'Range anxiety' is often less with an electric car when you plug it in at home, rather than find a fuel station. But conscious that this is not possible for residents without off street parking, WCC has provided fast and rapid charging spots at car parks in Winchester and Alresford, with more planned. HCC is trialling slow charge on-street overnight charging from lamp posts.

NewLeaf Alresford is joining a group of

sites that are working with WCC and HCC trialling new forms of verge management to increase the number of wildflowers we see on the roadsides. The cost of maintaining a verge in this way is actually more complicated than it sounds so these trials will be really useful to see the implications. If you fancy trying verge gardening, please contact www.NewLeafAlresford.org for more details

Many of you will have had a tidy out as part of the Covid19 rethink in our lives, and want to recycle children's toys and clothes. Go to

www.winchestervineyard.org (see 'storehouse' on their menu) to support families with young children - toys, money, they even have an Amazon wishlist!

I'm still a Trustee of The Watercress Way. Our progress has been hampered through the last year but we are volunteering from June, with walks, and conservation activities. Go to www.thewatercressway.org.uk for details. Volunteering is an opportunity to make a real difference for others; and taking part is fun, particularly if you want to walk and talk and meet others along the way.

Proposals for new incinerator sites in Hampshire fill me with horror. If this county is taking recycling seriously, we must do that: recycle what we can and not build more capacity to burn. So, it is disappointing that even though pubs and shops are open again, the recycling centres are still appointment only - and still only for cars. I'll talk more about recycling in the context of the new Hampshire Minerals and Waste plan in July's county corner.

As you read this, the Hampshire Together consultation on the difficult decision on the new hospital will be underway. Go to

Memorials
Building Stonework Restoration
BLACKWELL & MOODY Ltd
Stone Masons for five generations
Magdalen Masonry Works
Alresford Road Winchester SO21 1HE
Tel 01962 852476
blackwellandmoody@gmail.com

hair by **Louise**
MOBILE HAIRDRESSER
Previous experience in top
West End and Winchester salons
01264 712037 07788 248378

Alresford Motor Services
New Farm Road
All makes serviced and repaired
MOT test station
Volkswagen, Audi, Saab
and Volvo specialist
01962 733 888

Lawn Care
Feed, Weed & Moss
Control
200 Sq. Metres - £100
5 visits per yer
Tel. Brian 07710 792839

CoreAlign
Helen Synnott
Sports Massage Therapist
helen@core-align.co.uk
www.core-align.co.uk
07790 036920

OPEN GARDEN
Tichborne House
SO24 0NA
Saturday 19 June 1-6pm
Entrance fee to the Hampshire
& IOW Air Ambulance
Adults £7.50
Children optional donation
(cash only please and no dogs)



Also plant / honey / produce stall plus the
Tichborne Pottery will be open and our
neighbours Raimes English Sparkling
cellar door is open from 1-5pm
Entry from B3046 Alresford-Cheriton
road (not from Tichborne village)
What3words: /Woubed.footsaps.became
Details on Instagram @tichbornehousegarden

Dave Giles of Giles Tiles
Floor and wall tiling
Kitchen & bathroom refits
Friendly service & free quotes
dave@gilestiles.co.uk
07513 941962 01962 854184



**Can't get the hang of
your computer?**

**One-to-one tuition by
qualified trainer - DBS checked**
COVID safe sessions or remote available
Call Christine for details on
01962 735359

www.HampshireTogether.nhs.uk to give your views - and I'd be pleased to hear them too! If you don't have the internet, please give me a call, so I can talk you through how you can be involved too.

Councillor Jackie Porter, Itchen Valley Division

tel 01962 791054 text 07973 696 085,
email Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk website
www.jackieporter.co.uk

Follow me on twitter @JackieLibDem

From The Parish Council

We have now held both our Annual Parish Meeting and our Annual General Meeting by Zoom. Thank you to the one member of the



public who joined our APM and asked some interesting questions. The AGM went well and despite having twenty-four items on the agenda, we managed to finish in just less than two hours. Most of the positions on the council remain the same as last year. I remain as chairman, Paul Moffatt as vice-chairman, Yvette Riley as chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and Christopher Langford as Chairman of the Planning Committee. You can find the all the roles and portfolio holders on our website. We also approved all the current statutory documents, some of which have been updated since last year. Again if you wish to see these in detail, they can be found on our website.

The internal audit, which checks that we have kept to all the rules, has been

carried out. The result is very pleasing with the auditor only making two minor comments, both of which were answers to questions raised by us for clarification. Our Clerk Michelle is to be congratulated for this achievement in a difficult and very busy year.

Last month's report warned that, due to lack of new legislation, we might not be able to hold remote meetings nor be able to find an acceptable location to meet in person. That has become the case and the contingency plans to keep the Parish Council functioning have been approved, incorporated into our Standing Orders and are now in operation. If you need to bring anything to the attention of the Parish Council please continue to do so by email, phone, or letter to me or any of the Councillors but please remember not to use the Itchen List for that purpose. Jonathan Legat has resigned from the Parish Council due to taking up a major commitment with another organisation with which he has been involved for some time. He has been a council member for over five years and made a significant contribution as our Webmaster. In that time he has introduced a new and up to date website and worked continuously to see that it complies with ever changing legislation from Data Protection to Transparency, from Freedom of Information to Accessibility. No easy task. On behalf of all the Council he is to be thanked for all this work and his level headed input at Council meetings. We wish him well in his new role.

Two others who have served the Valley community over many years and have rightly received recognition with Mayor of Winchester Awards are Jill Croft and Tony Gaster. Please read the separate reports of these awards on

page 6.

Looking ahead, two long awaited items should be appearing in the Valley in June or July. One is a new bench seat at the entrance of Shelley Close in Itchen Abbas. This will replace the remains of the old seat at the same place. The new one has been kindly donated by the Dunn family in memory of Gerald and Jean Dunn who lived in Shelley Close and many will remember them as active members of the community. The other is a trampoline which will be installed in the play area of the Old School Field, Easton. It will be similar to the one that has proved to be so popular at Couch Green. It will replace the old trail that has to be removed, having been condemned by the safety inspector.

As many will already be aware, the Boomtown Festival will not be taking place this year. That does mean that the funds they provide for distribution to local good causes will not be available this year or next. However due to changes in circumstances, some of those who received funds last year have been unable to spend them and the money has been returned. There is therefore a small amount of money available for redistribution. Details will be provided later.

While on the subject of cancellations, a reminder that, as reported in last month's Valley News, we will not be having a Litter Pick this year but hope next year we can return to the old

timing of early spring. Remaining on the countryside The County Access Team has provided a new

Countryside Code. Please see the short version of this on page 25.

Patrick Appleby

And finally

Eds Farewell from Fi & Lucy. Thank you for reading...

Local monthly information

Itchen Valley area waste collections in June

Black bins and brown garden bins on Saturday 5 and Friday 18 June. Green bins on Fridays 11 and 25 June. Glass boxes on Friday 25 June.

Farmers' Market in Winchester

Sundays 13 and 27 June.

Parish Council Full Meeting

Meetings postponed until further notice

67 Bus operated by Stagecoach.

Monday and Thursday to Winchester:

08:23 09:23 13:53 16:23 17:23

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Winchester:

08:23 09:23 11:53 13:53 15:23
(school holidays only) 16:23 (school days only) 17:23

Saturday to Winchester:

08:23 11:23 14:23 17:23

Monday and Thursday to Alresford:

11:49 15:19 17:09 18:09

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to Alresford:

09:49 11:49 13:19 15:19 17:09 18:09

Saturday to Alresford:

09:19 12:19 15:19 18:09

No Sunday or bank holiday service.

All times shown are at Itchen Abbas.

Times are 5 minutes later (or earlier) at Easton.





Daren George - your local pest controller from Alresford

Wasps • Rats • Mice • Squirrels
• Moles • Rabbits • Crawling
& Flying Insects

Fully insured - Discreet service assured at all time



Now also offering

WHEELIE BIN CLEANING



Wheelie bins are a known
harbourage for a variety of pest
species, from flies and maggots,
to wasps and rats!

Bins can also attract a range of bacteria including
Listeria, *Salmonella* and *E.coli*.

Contact us today for a competitive quote

T: 07778 141505

E: traditionalpestcontrol@gmail.com
www.traditionalpestcontrol.co.uk

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Fully qualified and
insured specialists
in tree care, hedge
trimming, stump
grinding and garden
reclamation

01962 861891 / 07725 835715

www.fishertreecare.co.uk

STORAGE made easy

- 24/7 access
- Sizes to suit your needs
- Short or long term
- Easy to find, easy to use
- On your doorstep

01962 771993
www.barn-store.co.uk



Holden Farm Cheriton SO24 0NX



YOGA IN THE VALLEY



Yoga Retreat Days • Easton • £60
incl yoga, lunch, nature walk and creativity

Moon Yoga Workshops • Wickham • £25

Weekly Yoga Classes • Martyr Worthy • £8
- You-Time Yin Yoga on Sundays 19:00-20:00
- Fluid Flow Yoga on Mondays 17:30-18:30

Private 121 Yoga Class • £50



www.sherinshe.com/yoga
sherinshefik@gmail.com • 07976606696

BESPOKE CURTAINS,
BLINDS & CUSHIONS
INDEPENDENT BRITISH
DESIGNER FABRICS
TRACKS & POLES

COUDRE

INTERIOR FURNISHINGS
WORKROOM

2 WALES STREET
WINCHESTER SO23 0ET
MON-FRI, 9AM-3PM
07411 711 168
www.coudre.co.uk

Maid Marian

PROFESSIONAL DOMESTIC SERVICES



High quality domestic services Guaranteed



**One less thing to think about.
We can help.**

- Regular cleaning and end of tenancy cleaning
- One off spring cleans
- Washing and Ironing
- Carpet cleaning
- Building maintenance including painting and decorating
- Shopping
- Man with a van



telephone: 01962 736713
email: enquiries@maidmariancleaners.co.uk
web: www.maidmariancleaners.co.uk



Jemma Giles

your local
Advanced Clinical Massage Therapist.

Treating clients who suffer from:-

***Back and neck issues * Headaches**

***Frozen shoulder *Tight muscles**

***Low energy *Tennis elbow**

Call Jemma to arrange your treatment on
07752 623234 or 01962 854184
jemma@massagetherapywinchester.co.uk
www.massagetherapywinchester.co.uk
Mansard House, Easton, Winchester, SO21 1DQ

Showroom

Workshop

GARDEN
GEORGE CANN
MACHINERY

TEL 01962 771800

01962 771800

LACEYS FARM, BRAMDEAN, ALRESFORD SO24 0JT

www.georgecanngardenmachinery.co.uk



THE
COUNTRY
HOUSE
COMPANY
Sales | Lettings | Management

Selling, Letting & Managing properties in the Itchen Valley

02392 632 275 countryhousecompany.co.uk



BLINDS AWNINGS SHUTTERS

We offer an expert measuring, manufacturing and installation service with a
FULL 5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Our other services include awning
and canopy restoration,
including re-covering,
and blind servicing and repair.

Call us for a
FREE
no obligation
quote



WINCHESTER
BLINDS & SHUTTERS

Tel: 01962 736 836 or 07711 007 079

info@winchesterblinds.com www.winchesterblinds.com

A TRADITIONAL FIRM WITH
A MODERN APPROACH



DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION **INTERIOR** **PAINT**

REPAIR & MAINTENANCE **WALLPAPER** **LANDSCAPE** **EXTERIOR LIGHTING**

CONTACT US

Request a proposal today for any of the services we offer.

Atlanta Office
1150 Peachtree Street
N.E. 10th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 525-4444

Charlotte Office
4000 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 366-4444

Denver Office
1400 14th Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 733-4444

Fort Lauderdale Office
2000 N.W. 10th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
(954) 576-4444

Phoenix Office
10000 N. 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021
(602) 998-4444

taylorfordyce.com